

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment adds new claims 15-19 to point out various aspects of the present application. Thus, claims 1-19 are pending for consideration upon entry of the instant response. Claims 1, 3, and 15 are independent.

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The Office Action requires restriction under PCT Rule 13.1 between the method of Group I (claims 1-2 and 5-14) and the method of Group II (claims 3-4).

Applicant elects, with traverse, the invention of Group I, which includes claims 1-2 and 5-14, as well as newly added claims 15-19.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action, in asserting that the claims fail to relate to a single general inventive concept, has focused on differences within the claims but has failed to consider the common features, namely the common inventive concept as required by PCT Rule 13.1.

Moreover, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. See MPEP 803.

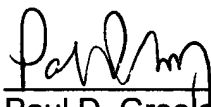
Applicant respectfully submits that searching elected Group I is likely to result in finding art pertinent to non-elected Group II. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that searching and examining the subject matter of non-elected Group II, along with elected Group I, does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction with regard to Group II and request examination of Group II along with the examination of elected Group I.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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